

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is one of over 560 national wildlife refuges in the United States. The primary objective of a national wildlife refuge is to provide habitat for the conservation and protection of wildlife.

REMEMBER!
Your hunt permit authorizes you to take specified game only. Harming or needlessly disturbing any other wildlife is a violation of refuge regulations and is cause for prosecution. The regulations listed in this brochure supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on national wildlife refuges set forth in Title 50: Part 32, Code of Federal Regulations. Individuals may have their permits revoked if found to be in violation of any Federal or State laws. Hunting will be in accordance with applicable State regulations and the following special refuge regulations.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Applications will only be accepted by mail postmarked no later than October 1st. The only exception will be the archery permits. They will still be available at the visitor center during regular hours of operation.

- Applications will be mailed to hunters that have participated in deer hunts at Blackwater NWR in the past 3 years.
- Beginning July 12th - applications will be available at the Visitor Center from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.
- Completed hunt applications must be received through the mail. Include check or money order made out to the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** (USFWS) in the appropriate amount.
- Area U and B1 will be closed to archery during the Youth Hunt on November 7, 2015.

Permit Application Fees
Archery Application: \$20
Quota Muzzleloader: \$10
Non-Quota (Doe only) Muzzleloader: \$10
Non-Quota Muzzleloader: \$10
Quota Shotgun: \$10
Dec. Non-Quota Shotgun: \$20
Jan. Non-Quota Shotgun: \$20
Youth Fees: \$5 for each hunt
First Year Youth Hunter: Free for Youth Hunt Day

Note: Fees are reduced by ½ for Golden Age Passport/Senior Pass or Golden Access Passport/Access Pass holders. Pass numbers must be provided.

PERMIT LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

We require hunters to possess a valid Maryland hunting license and all required stamps, valid government-issued photo identification, and a valid hunting permit issued by the refuge on their person at all times during refuge hunt and scout days.

For hunt information, call Hunt Coordinator Allen Johnston at 410-228-2677. During the quota hunts only, Allen may be contacted by cell phone at 443-205-5290.

Report illegal activity or related information to:
USFWS Law Enforcement 443-477-1934.

Deer harvested during the refuge hunts will NOT count toward the State’s regional combined bag limit.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

Other than archery permits, we require all hunters, regardless of age, to submit a Big Game Hunt Application (FWS Form 3-2356) **by mail** to obtain a permit. All permits are non-transferable. Only participants possessing authorized permits will be allowed to enter the hunt areas. The only exceptions are non-hunting assistants for youth hunters and hunters with disabilities.

Youth Hunt
Hunters 16 years of age or younger may participate in the youth hunt if the individual possesses a valid hunting license or is exempt from Maryland hunting license requirements. Youth must be accompanied in the field by an individual who is 21 years old or older and possesses a valid Maryland hunting license, or is exempt from hunting license requirements, and is not afield with a firearm, bow or other hunting device. Hunt check-in is **NOT** required.

Hunters with Disabilities
We require all hunters with disabilities to provide, with their application, a copy of a valid Maryland DNR issued hunt from vehicle permit. Individuals with a disability may have an assistant during the hunt. Persons assisting a hunter with a disability must be at least 18 years of age and obey all refuge, State, and Federal laws and regulations. Persons actively assisting hunters with disabilities may hunt in Areas Q2 and U1. If assistants wish to hunt they must have all the required licenses and a refuge hunt permit. The use of ATVs is only permitted by disabled hunters in areas Q2 and U1, and they must stay on established roads and or field edges.

Access
Motorized vehicles are authorized for access only on designated roads and parking areas indicated on the hunt map. We prohibit the use of boats, floatation devices, ATVs, motorized off-road vehicles, and amphibious vehicles to access the refuge. Only hunters with disabilities are authorized by the refuge manager to use ATVs in area U1 and Q2. All other access is limited to walk-in or bicycles. Hunters may use bicycles to access hunt areas on designated hunt/scout days. We prohibit hunters taking bicycles off designated roads and trails while on refuge lands. We require hunters to notify a refuge representative and receive permission from the refuge manager or designee prior to entering a closed area to retrieve game.

Scouting
Scouting will only be permitted by hunters with a permit from 7:00 am to sunset on September 10; October 18; November 22; December 13, 2015; and January 3, 2016. The Hunt Coordinator will be available to provide information at the Refuge Visitor Center during all scout days from 9:00 am -12:00 pm. All youth hunt permit holders must be accompanied by an adult/guardian age 21 or older.

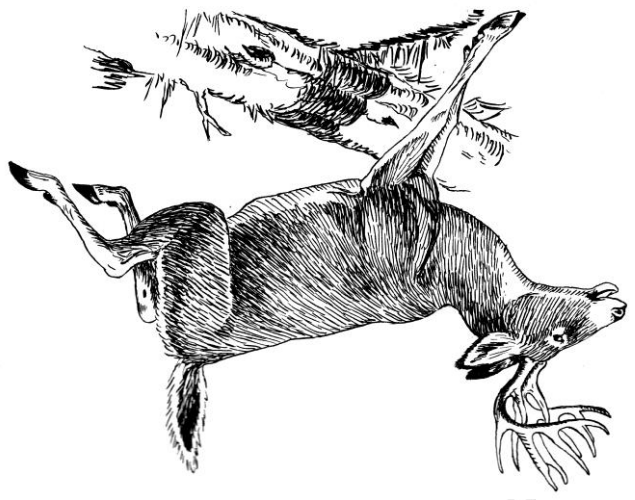
Tree Stands
We only allow portable or temporary tree stands and blinds while hunting. Tree stands may be pre-installed during the scouting days. We prohibit hunting from a permanently constructed tree stand or blind. We require hunters to mark in plain sight any tree stands or blinds left unattended on refuge property with permit number and year. We also require hunters to remove all stands, blinds and marking devices, including flagging or tape, by sunset of the last day of designated “stand removal week” (Jan. 31- Feb. 7, 2016). We prohibit paint or any other permanent marker to mark trails. We prohibit screw-in steps, spikes, or other objects that may damage trees. The refuge will not be held responsible for damage, theft, or other hunter occupancy. Any stands left in a hunt area after February 7, 2016, will be confiscated and deemed abandoned property.

- Other Regulations**
- Only participants possessing authorized hunt permits will be allowed to enter the hunt areas.
 - Hunters are prohibited from being on the refuge (including parking lots) between 9:00 pm & 4:30 am.
 - We prohibit the use of rimfire or centerfire rifles and all handguns including muzzleloading pistols.
 - We prohibit leaving deer entrails or other waste within 50 feet of any trail, road, or refuge structure.
 - Camping and campfires are not permitted. All cooking devices must be self-contained and these are restricted only to designated parking areas.
 - Hunt permit holders may not engage in guiding, outfitting, advertising, or audio or visual productions for commercial purposes.
 - Baiting is not permitted.
 - Use and/or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.
 - Automatic, motion-activated, game, or trail cameras are prohibited on the refuge.
 - Driving deer is permitted only on December 10-12.
 - Area access and hunter participation can be revoked at the discretion of the Refuge Manager.
 - Shooting or hunting within 150 yards of any occupied structure is prohibited.
 - Shooting from, across or down any designated refuge road is prohibited. An open gate designates a refuge road.
 - Area B3 is only open during the quota shotgun hunt.

Tagging and Checking Instructions

Hunters who harvest deer during the quota hunts must present deer for examination at the refuge check station (see map) on the day of the kill, between 9:00 am and 9:30 pm during muzzleloader hunts and 9:00 am and 8:00 pm during shotgun hunts. Hunters who fail to check deer during operating hours of the check station will notify the refuge hunt coordinator of their kill to include species, area harvested, sex, and for male deer the number of points on each antler by noon of the following day. The Hunt Coordinator will be available from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm at the Refuge Visitor Center during the non-quota muzzleloader and non-quota shotgun hunts. Deer taken at Blackwater NWR **will not** count against your Maryland state bag limit. In addition, **ALL** deer killed must be field-tagged, recorded, and checked in accordance with state regulations. The public land code for Blackwater NWR is 543.

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge
Cambridge, Maryland



2015-2016
Hunting Regulations

Season	Date	Bag Limit		Total Bag Limit Per Weapon Type
Archery	Sept. 11 - Oct. 21, 2015 Nov. 2 - Nov. 27, 2015 Dec. 14 - Dec. 18, 2015 Jan. 4 - Jan. 7, 2016 Jan. 11 - Jan. 30, 2016	Sika: 3 (only 1 antlered)		Sika: 3 (only 1 antlered)
		White-tailed: 11 (only 1 may be antlered)		White-tailed: 11 (only 1 may be antlered)
Quota Muzzleloader	Area U and B1 closed to archery hunting on Nov. 7, 2015 Oct. 23 & 24, 2015	White-tailed: 10 antlerless, 1 antlered		Sika: 3 (only 1 may be antlered)
		Sika: 3		White-tailed: 11 (only 1 may be antlered)
Non-Quota Muzzleloader	Oct. 29 - 31, 2015 (Antlerless Only)	Sika: 3 antlerless		White-tailed: 11 (only 1 may be antlered)
		White-tailed: antlerless only total of 10 during this muzzleloader hunt		White-tailed: 11 (only 1 may be antlered)
Quota Shotgun Non-Quota Shotgun	Dec. 19 & 20, 2015 Nov. 30 & Dec. 4, 2015 Dec. 10 - 12, 2015 Jan. 8 - 9, 2016	See "Total bag Limits."		Sika: 3 (only 1 may be antlered)
		See "Total Bag Limit."		White-tailed: 11 (only 1 may be antlered)
Youth	Nov. 7, 2015	Sika: 1 either sex White-tailed: 3 (only 1 antlered)		Sika: One either sex White-tailed: 3 (only 1 antlered)
Scout Dates	Sept. 10, Oct. 18, Nov. 22, Dec. 13, 2015 and Jan. 3, 2016			

BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Deer Hunt Units

2015 - 16 Season

Shotgun

Shotgun, Muzzleloader

Shotgun, Muzzleloader, Youth

Archery, Shotgun, Muzzleloader

Archery, Shotgun, Muzzleloader, Youth

Closed to Hunting

Private Inholdings

Harriet Tubman Monument (HTM)

★

Check Station

P

Hunt Parking

~

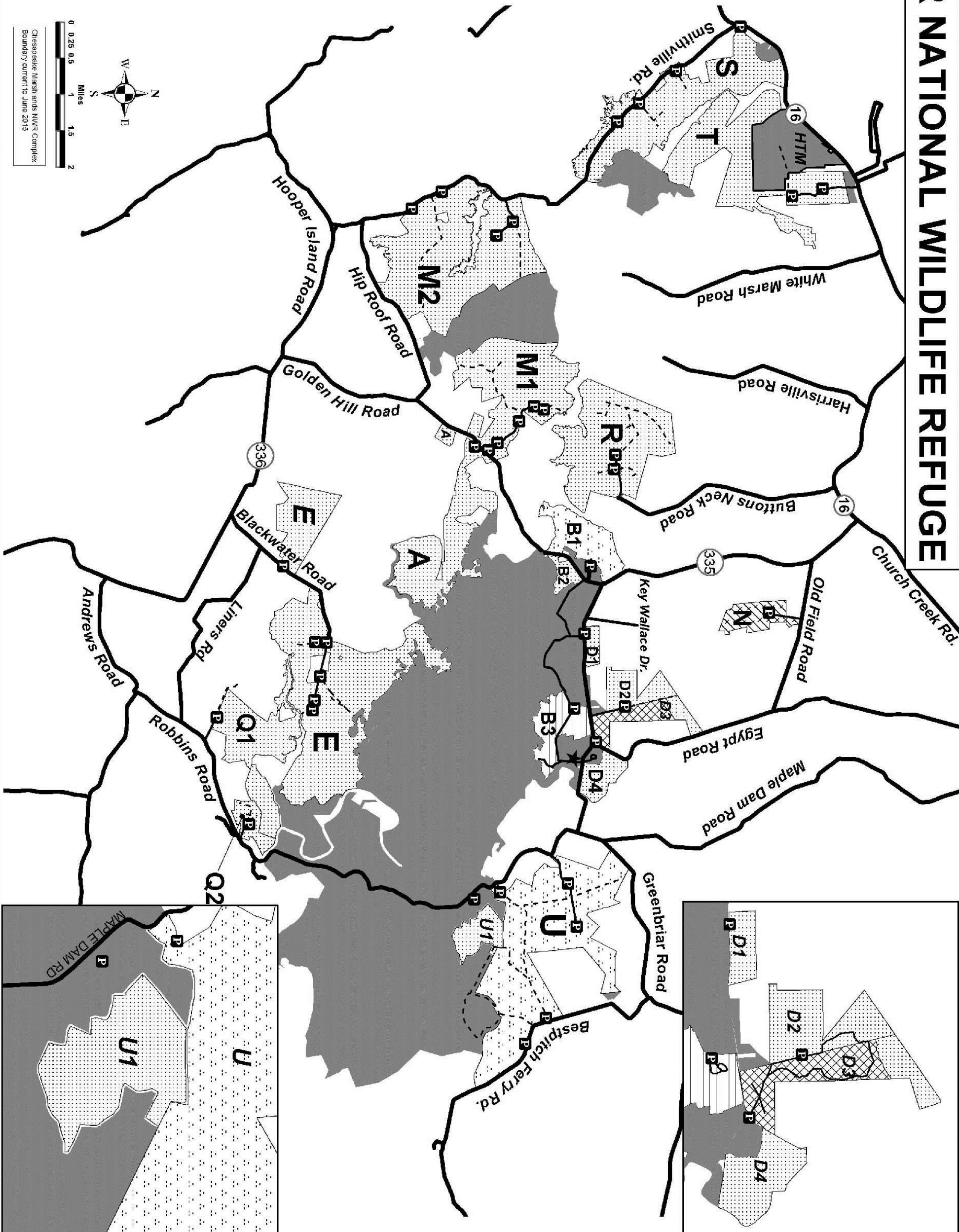
Major Roads

~

Refuge Roads

~

Closed to Vehicles



Area	Acres	Archery	Shotgun	Muzzleloader	Youth
A	790	X	X	X	
B1	369	X	X	X	X
B2	81	X	X	X	
B3	318		⊗		
D1	70	X	X	X	
D2	222	X	X	X	
D3	263		X	X	
D4	180	X	X	X	
E	1838	X	X	X	
M1	1055	X	X	X	
M2	1789	X	X	X	
N	211		X	X	X
Q1	502	X	X	X	
Q2*	303	X*	X*	X*	
R	1152	X	X	X	
S	1200	X	X	X	
T	1125	X	X	X	
U	1926	X	X	X	X
U1*	203	X*	X*	X*	

*Q2 & U1 - Certified disabled only ⊗ B3 open to quota shotgun only

N

E

S

W

0

0.25

0.5

1

1.5

2

Miles

Chesapeake Marshlands NWR Complex
Boundary current to June 2015